

Message Text

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63

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TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: OLYMPICS: CRITICISM OF GOC POSITION ON TAIWAN CONTINUES

1. SUMMARY: TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL ON JULY 28 PUBLISHED LETTER FROM ARNOL SMITH, LEADER PEARSON PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, CARLETON UNIVERSITY, OTTAWA (ALSO FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF COMMONWEALTH), CRITICAL OF CANADA'S POSITION ON TAIWAN AT OLYMPICS. LETTER HAD ITS OWN HEADLINE, "FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF COMMONWEALTH CRITICAL: CANADA LEGALLY AND MORALLY WRONG". END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM SMITH TO TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL:

3. BEGIN TEXT: THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THE DISPUTE ABOUTH TAIWAN'S OLYMPIC TEAM IS NEITHER THAT OF DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION AND POLITICAL NOMENCLATURE, NOR MIXING POLITICS IN SPORT: IT IS A SENSE OF PROPORION.

4. FOR 26 YEARS I HAVE URGED THE WISDOM OF RECOGNIZING THE CHINESE COMMUNIST REGIME AS THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVES OF CHINA. BUT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF ANY HOST
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COUNTRY TO ASSERT THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE UNILATERALLY

WHO MAY ATTEND - OR ON WHAT CONDITIONS EXCEPT SECURITY - THE MEETINGS OF AN ORGANIZED INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION THAT THEY HAVE INVITED TO FOREGATHER ON THEIR TERRITORY SEEMS TO ME LEGALLY AND MORALLY WRONG. AND POLITICALLY IT UNNECESSARILY PLACES THE HOST COUNTRY IN THE CENTRE OF A DISPUTE WHICH IS NOT ITS PROPER RESPONSIBILITY AND WHICH IT COUNT AND SHOULD HAVE SIDE-STEPPED BY LOYALLY ACCEPTING THE LEGITIMATE COLLECTIVE DECISIONS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH IT BELONGS, WHETHER IT AGREES WITH THE MAJORITY DECISIONS OR NOT.

5. I HAD HOPED THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAD LEARNED THIS LESSON SINCE ALTHOUGH THEY WERE WIDELY THOUGHT TO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ABUSE THEIR POSITION OF PROSPECTIVE HOST IN RELATION TO THE QUESTION OF OBSERVERS AT THE UNITED NATIONS CRIME CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR TORONTO IN THE SUMMER OF 1975, NEVERTHELESS THIS SPRING THEY COURAGEOUSLY RESISTED SIMILAR DOMESTIC PRESSURES IN THE CASE OF THE HABITAT CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER.

6. RECOGNIZING WHICH LEVEL OF SOCIETY -- FROM THE INDIVIDUAL ON UP TO AND BEYOND THE NATION-STATE -- IS APPROPRIATE FOR WHICH CLASS OF DECISION-TAKING IS A CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT MATTER OF POLITICAL PRINCIPLE. EVERYONE AT LEAST IN CANADA MUST KNOW THAT FOR A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO SEEK TO DETERMINE ISSUES BEST LEFT TO THE INDIVIDUAL OR LOCAL OR PROVINCIAL LEVELS COULD THREATEN FREEDOM. SIMILARLY FOR A HOST GOVERNMENT TO SEEK TO DICTATE DECISIONS PROPERLY WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES IS STRATEGICALLY UNWISE SINCE IT JEOPARDIZES THE VIABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY AND COOPERATION IN AN AGE WHEN THEY OBVIOUSLY NEED TO BE IMPROVED RATHER THAN WEAKENED.

7. DURING THE 10 YEARS WHEN I WAS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH I HAD PROBLEMS IN A FEW CASES WITH HOST GOVERNMENT WHO WISED THEMSELVES TO DETERMINE WHO WOULD BE INVITED TO A COMMONWEALTH MEETING. HAPPILY IN ALL THESE CASES THEY WERE PERSUADED IN GOOD TIME THAT SUCH DECISIONS MUST BE LEFT EITHER TO THE CONSENSUS OF MEMBERS

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GENERALLY OR TO ME AS THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE.

8. I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT NONE OF THE CASES IN WHICH I MYSELF HAD THESE PROBLEMS WERE CAUSED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. I AM SORRY THAT CANADA SHOULD HAVE POSED SUCH PROBLEMS FOR THE UNITED NATIONAL AND THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE. THE CONFUSION OF PROPORTION IN POLITICS -- AND NOT LEAST IN WORLD POLITICS -- IS

PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS BECAUSE IT CAN SO EASILY BECOME
CONTAGIOUS. END TEXT.

9. COMMENT: EXCITEMENT AND FESTIVE SPIRIT OF MONTREAL
HAS MUTED POLITICAL DISPUTES SWIRLING ABOUT OLYMPICS.
COMMENTS ON GOC/TAIWAN POSITION AND EVEN ON AFRICAN
NATIONS WITHDRAWAL RELATIVELY SPARSE. HOWEVER, COMMENTS
WHICH HAVE APPEARED GENERALLY HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF GOC
ALONG LINES OF LETTER ABOVE, WHOSE AUTHOR IS MOST
PRESTIGIOUS AND POLITICALLY NEUTRAL SOURCE YET
HEARD FROM.
ENDERS

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